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## V. Greece

From the end of 1946, as civil disturbances in Greece became increasingly serious, the ICRC offered its customary services to the Greek Government. Negotiations for visits to internment camps and relief to their inmates encountered great difficulties. In May 1947, the ICRC sent a mission to Athens; as a result, M. Tsaldaris, the Greek Premier, authorised the ICRC to assist prisoners and internees in certain respects, as part of a general relief scheme for the benefit of the entire Greek population. It was underlined that this authorisation was based purely on humanitarian considerations, and could not be construed as having any effect on the legal position of the parties to the conflict.

The Athens Delegation was thus able to visit persons detained or interned in the Islands, especially those of Ghioura, Makronissos, Chios and Ikaria.

Relief supplies presented to the ICRC or drawn from its own reserves were distributed during these visits, in particular to women and children.<sup>1</sup>

It did not, however, prove possible to make direct contact with the leaders of the armed movement.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> For relief work in Greece, see also p. 69 above.

<sup>2</sup> Although General Markos had expressed the desire to meet a representative of the ICRC, and had written to this effect to Geneva.